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EXAMINER

BUI, HUNG S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/025,860

Applicant(s)

MARCOTTE ET AL.

Examiner

Hung S Bui

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 32-51 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 32-51 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected claimed invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 4.

Applicant's election with traverse of claims 1-11 in Paper No. 4 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that claims 12-31 are drawn to the same inventive concept as that of claims 1-11. This is found persuasive. Claims 1-31 will be examined on merit.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "10" and "100" have both been used to designate the chassis (figure 6). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the input/out connector being connected to the card connector by a printed circuit of the printed circuit board body and adapted for being connected to an input/output of a peripheral device, the printed circuit board body consisting of at least three micro panel layers and the tapped

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hole must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, the phrase "of the type" renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "of the type"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-20, 22-23 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plunkett et al. [US 6,496,376] in view of Bellino et al. [US 5,943,219].

Regarding claims 1-3, 7, 12-14 and 18, Plunkett et al. disclose a connector panel (figure 7) for housing of the type having an opening for accommodating interchangeable electronic card therein (figure 2) comprising:

- a printed circuit board body (40) with a conductive plane;
- a card connector (figure 3) on the panel adapted for being connected to an electronic card in a housing/chassis;
- at least one input/output connector on a first surface of the panel (figure 4), the input/output connector being connected to the card connector by a printed circuit of the printed circuit board body; and
- the panel being adapted for being mounted side by side with similar connector panel (figure 7).

Plunkett et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for a gasket shield being mounted between a concave and convex portion of adjacent panels.

Bellino et al. disclose a backplane having a plurality of adjacent panels (602, 604, 606) with a resilient gasket shield (612) being mounted between a concave and convex portion of adjacent panels (figure 9).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use the gasket design of Bellino et al. for the adjacent panels of Plunkett et al., for the purpose of providing shielding for the interior for the housing.

Regarding claims 4 and 15, Plunkett et al. disclose the circuit board body having an elongated rectangular shape (figure 7).

Regarding claims 5-6 and 16-17, Plunkett et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the printed circuit board body having at least three portions with the middle layer being set back from the other one of the three portions.

Bellino et al. disclose panel bodies having at least three portions with the middle layer being set back from the other one of the three portions (figure 7).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use the portion design of Bellino et al. for the printed circuit board bodies of Plunkett et al., for the purpose of holding the gasket in place.

Regarding claims 8 and 19, Plunkett et al. disclose the printed circuit board body having a first surface and a second surface with the card connector being on the first surface and the input/out connector being on the second surface.

Regarding claims 9-10, Plunkett et al. disclose an alignment slot/through bore (a, b) being provided on the connector panel (figure 4).

Regarding claims 11 and 31, Plunkett et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the specific type of connector used for the connector panel.

The specific type of connectors use with the connector panel of Plunkett et al. would have been an obvious design consideration based on the specific application of the device.

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Regarding claim 20, Plunkett et al. disclose the connector panel being arranged such that electronic card receive in a housing are position to be generally perpendicular to the first surface of the connector panel (figure 7).

Regarding claim 22, Plunkett et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for an alignment slot mounted in the connection panel engaging corresponding protrusions in the chassis.

Bellino et al. discloses the connection panels including projections (801) engaging slots (figure 8) of a support chassis (figure 6).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use the projection/slot design of Bellino et al. in Plunkett et al. for the purpose of aligning the connection panels on the chassis.

Plunkett et al. in view of Bellino et al. disclose the claimed invention except for an alignment slot mounted in the connection panel engaging corresponding protrusions in the chassis. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to mount the alignment slots on the connection panel and the protrusions on the chassis, since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. In re Einstein, 8 USPQ 167.

Regarding claim 23, Plunkett et al. in view of Bellino et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the connection panels each having at least one alignment slot on an upper edge thereof and at least one alignment slot on a lower edge thereof

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for engagement with corresponding protrusion on upper and lower inner surfaces of the chassis.

Bellino et al. disclose the connection panels each having at least one alignment protrusion on an upper edge thereof and at least one alignment protrusion on a lower edge thereof for engagement with corresponding slots on upper and lower inner surfaces of the chassis.

Plunkett in view of Bellino et al., as modified, discloses the claimed invention except for at least one alignment protrusion on an upper edge thereof and at least one alignment protrusion on a lower edge thereof for engagement with corresponding slots on upper and lower inner surfaces of the chassis. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the protrusions on the chassis and the slots on the connector panels since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. In re Einstein, 8 USPQ 167.

7. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plunkett et al. in view of Bellino et al. as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Zurek [US 6,028,769].

Regarding claim 21, Plunkett et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the chassis being a conductive cast shell.

Zurek discloses a chassis assembly (figure 3) being a conductive cast shell.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use a casting process for the chassis of Plunkett et al. in view of Bellino et al., as suggested by Zurek, for the purpose of improving shielding.

8. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plunkett et al. in view of Bellino et al. as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Godsey et al. [US 4,179,172].

Regarding claim 24, Plunkett et al. in view of Bellino et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the connector panel having a throughbore for being fastened to a tapped hole in the chassis registered with the throughbore.

Godsey et al. disclose a connection panel (56) having at least one throughbore (figure 5) for being fastened to a tapped hole (64) in a chassis (figure 5) registered with the throughbore.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use the throughbore/tapped hole design of Godsey et al. for the connection panels of Plunkett et al. in view of Bellino et al., for the purpose of securing and locating the connection panels to the chassis.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 25-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record does not teach or suggest, in the claimed combination, the chassis having a groove for receiving therein an edge portion of the connector panel such that the connector panel being mounted to the chassis is introduced in the groove and pivoted into connection with a corresponding electronic card.


Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S Bui whose telephone number is (703) 305-8024. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David S. Martin can be reached on (703) 308-3121. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-0956.

HB
8/16/03


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